

~~SECRET~~

7 May 1974

NOTE FOR: The Director

1. Attached is a note Howie Stoertz sent me recently which bears on a matter you and I discussed briefly a couple of weeks ago. I share his view that the requirement for a separate TOP SECRET version of certain codeword Estimates such as NIE 11-8 may now be anachronistic. This requirement arose in an era when codeword compartments were much tighter than is now the case and far fewer people had clearances enabling them to read codeword material.



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2. If you share the above reasoning, I suggest you raise this as a discussion item at USIB. If you want to be honest you should probably put it on the agenda though if you do, platoons of staff officers will probably send their principals to the meeting armed with dozens of non-reasons why this practice should continue. If you spring it on honorable members without advance notice, appealing to their judgment as rational human beings, you might stand a better chance of getting the requirement dropped. For your information, 11-8 was issued on 25 January 1974. We received today, 7 May, our first request -- from the NSC Staff -- for the "SECRET and the highly classified version." The fact that no one else has yet asked for the TOP SECRET version (as usual, the NSC Staff has its facts garbled) strongly suggests to me that this version is not really needed.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

Attachment

cc: NIO/SP

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